



U P D A T E

St. Lucie County

November 15, 2006

**A Monthly Update
of Current Events
and Happenings
within St. Lucie**

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This update is published monthly by the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners' Public Information Office. Direct inquiries to Ja' Net Pentz Senior Staff Assistant St. Lucie County 2300 Virginia Avenue Fort Pierce, FL 34982 772.462.6421

Board of County Commissioners Special Meetings & Workshops Scheduled

- The Tuesday, November 21, 2006, Board of County Commissioners Reorganization Meeting will be at 9 a.m.
- There will be NO Board of County Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, December 26, 2006, due to the County's observance of the Holiday.

Water Savings Incentive Program

South Florida's unprecedented growth and development has presented water managers with the challenge of providing water supplies for ever-increasing demands, while continuing to ensure our natural water resources are protected and preserved. Recent water supply studies have concluded that historically-used freshwater sources will not be sufficient to meet the future water needs of the region. On November 14, the Board of County Commissioners authorized execution of a subgrant agreement with the Fort Pierce Housing Authority for implementation of a grant award of \$50,000 received from the South Florida Water Management District's Water Savings Incentive Program to replace older high-volume fixtures with low-flow showerheads, bath and kitchen faucets, and commodes in Fort Pierce Housing Authority low-income residential homes.

Free Transit

During the month of December, the County bus system will be free! Sponsors have been identified to provide funding to the Treasure Coast Connector so fares can be waived. The Treasure Coast Connector remains the single most cost-effective form of transportation available in St. Lucie and Martin County even with the fare, but the staff at Community Transit realizes that every penny counts during the holiday season. They have worked hard to pull together sponsorship so they can provide this free service to the community for the month of December. Marianne Arbore, Transit Director stated "Our year-end free ride initiative is just a small token of our appreciation for the community support we receive throughout the year." Currently the system offers routes that connect Fort Pierce and Stuart and many of the communities in-between. Whether you are wrapping up holiday shopping at the mall or headed to work to make some extra cash, the Treasure Coast Connector will get you there. All route information and times can be found at www.treasurecoastconnector.com or you can call 464-RIDE.

The Polar Express

Holiday magic and old-fashioned family fun fill the evening as *The Polar Express* returns to the St. Lucie county Historical Museum in Fort Pierce on Saturday, December 2. Interactive readings of *The Polar Express* are scheduled for both 6:30 and 8 p.m. followed by photos with Santa in the railroad depot, hot chocolate and cookies in the old general store, and tours of the 1908 Gardner House. Families and the young of spirit are welcome aboard for an evening of Polar Express enchantment and holiday celebration. Children are encouraged to wear their pajamas and robes and bring their own copy of *The Polar Express* to read along. The cost for this holiday program is \$5 per person, which includes a photo to be mailed to each family. Seating for the two programs is limited so please make reservations by contacting Anne Sinnott, museum educator at (772) 462-1891.

Freaky Fish Feeding Habits

Think you know someone who has strange eating habits? Soup-slurpers and food-separaters have nothing on some of the strange behaviors found in the ocean! The Smithsonian Marine Ecosystems Exhibit is offering Breakfast with the Animals: Freaky Feeders on Saturday, November 18 from 8:30 – 10 a.m. This family program includes a deluxe continental breakfast, an interactive educational program and an opportunity to see the morning routines of our underwater friends. Tickets are \$8 for children and \$10 for adults. Advance registration is required as space is limited. Registration deadline is Wednesday Nov. 15. Please contact Laura Diederick at 772-465-3271 for further questions or to make reservations for your family today!

Space Discovery Class

St. Lucie County's Parks & Recreation Department is offering a "Space Discovery Class" to all interested children, ages 9 through 12, starting this January. The class will meet once a week for seven weeks with two sessions available. Session one will meet Tuesdays from 6 - 7:30 p.m. starting Jan. 9, 2007, and session two will meet Wednesdays from 10 - 11:30 a.m. starting Jan. 10, 2007. All classes will be held at the St. Lucie County International Airport, Civil Air Patrol Headquarters, 2858 Curtis King Blvd. in Fort Pierce. The class will introduce students to the world of space exploration, while participating in a wide variety of space-related activities, including training for a simulated launch with a full-scale replica of the space shuttle flight deck, and a trip to Kennedy Space Center, giving students a first-hand experience of our country's space program. Class size is limited to 10 students to assure individual attention. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$70 per student, which includes materials and admission to Kennedy Space Center. Students will need to bring a three-ring binder for class materials. For more information call the Fort Pierce Community Center at 772-462-1792.

Upcoming Events at the Oxbow Eco-Center

St. Lucie Regional Herp Society ~ Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 7 p.m. Guests are encouraged to attend this free event and learn more about snakes, lizards, frogs and other reptiles.

Guided Canoe/Kayak Tours ~ Saturday, Nov. 18 at 9 a.m. Paddlers will depart from White City Park on Midway Road and travel down to the Oxbow canoe dock and back to White City Park. The fee is \$10 per person. Children 5 - 7 are free. Reservations and prepayment is required. For more information, please call (772) 785-5842.

Guided Hikes ~ Every Saturday at 10 a.m. Join an Oxbow naturalist as they lead visitors along a series of trails, discussing the plants and wildlife that live in the different habitats along the North Fork of the St. Lucie River. For more information about all Oxbow Eco-Center events call the staff at (772) 785-5833 or visit www.stlucieco.gov/erd/oxbow.

Fort Pierce Library November Nature Series Programs with Captain Chop Lege

Friday, November 17 at 10 a.m. - **"Bayous & Lagoon"** - See how nature interacts with is in ways we cannot imagine.

Friday, November 17 at 1 p.m. - **"Walk & Talk"** at Vitolo Family Park on A1A, South Hutchinson Island.

Thursday, November 30 at 3 p.m. - **"Florida Natural Wildlife"** - Birds, animals, trees wildflowers, insects weather and more.

Friday, December 1 at 1 p.m. - **"Walk & Talk"** at Bear Point Sanctuary on A1A, South Hutchinson Island.

The Fort Pierce Library is located at 101 melody Lane, Fort Pierce. These programs are free and open to the public. Reservations may be required, as space is limited. For more information, visit www.st-lucie.lib.fl.us or call 772-462-1615.

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